

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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JCS

CNO

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CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049607

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MARR, PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT:US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS - SOUDA BAY

REF: A. ATHENS 2814 (DTG 241635Z FEB 76); B. ATHENS 1429

(DTG 131812Z FEB 76); C. ATHENS 1196 (DTG 061740Z FEB 76)

1. AS NOTED IN REF A, THE ASSERTION BY FOREIGN MINISTER  
BITSIOS THAT THE US HAS HAD CONTINUED USE OF ITS FACILITIES  
IN GREECE THROUGHOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS IS INACCURATE, GIVEN  
THE CONTINUING SUSPENSION OF US OPERATIONS AT SOUDA BAY.

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WE THEREFORE CONCUR WITH EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT THAT WE

SHOULD MAINTAIN MAXIMUM PRESSURE ON THE GREEKS TO RELAX  
OPERATING RESTRICTIONS AT SOUDA BAY.

2. WHILE WE APPRECIATE THAT THERE ARE SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR APPROACH TO THE NEGOTIATION OF A NEW AGREEMENT AND THAT OF THE GREEKS, WE REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT THESE DIFFERENCES CAN BE RESOLVED AND THAT SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS TOWARD A NEW AGREEMENT CAN BE NEGOTIATED PRIOR TO THE CONCLUSION OF ROUND FOUR. A DRAFT OF A NEW SOUDA BAY AGREEMENT IS UNDER PREPARATION, AND WILL BE AVAILABLE TO BE TABLED AT A SUBGROUP SESSION WHICH WE WILL DESIRE TO CONVENE PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE FOURTH ROUND.

3. WE CONSIDER SOUDA ISSUE AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND AS SUCH WE COULD NOT AGREE TO DEFERRING RENEGOTIATION OF THE 1959 AGREEMENT UNTIL A LATER TIME. WE ARE ALSO MINDFUL OF KOURIS' INSISTENCE THAT AGREEMENTS ON HELLENIKON AND SOUDA BE CONCLUDED AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME (REF C). IN ANY EVENT, AND IN ORDER TO KEEP PRESURE ON THE GREEKS TO REMOVE RESTRICTIONS ON US OPERATIONS AT SOUDA, WE PREFER NOT TO CONCLUDE OTHER MAJOR FACILITIES AGREEMENTS (HELLENIKON, NEA MAKRI, IRAKLION) UNTIL WE HAVE AT LEAST REACHED BASIC ACCORD ON SOUDA. IN INTERIM, EMBASSY SHOULD CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN AN IMMEDIATE RELAXATION OF OPERATING RESTRICTIONS AT SOUDA BAY.

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## Message Attributes

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